

**Island County Conservation Futures Program
Maintenance and Operations Funding
Project title: Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management
Application Year: 2015**

Applicant's Name: Island County Noxious Weed Control Board

Applicant's Address: P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

Contact Person: Janet Stein

Phone: 360-678-7992 (office); 360-969-3988 (cell)

E-mail: j.stein@co.island.wa.us

Property Owner Name: Island County Parks

Property Owner Phone: 360-679-7334

Address of Property: Iverson Preserve is located at Long Beach, Camano Island, south of Livingston Bay and North of Barnum Point

Tax Parcel Number(s): R33105-426-3680, R33232-048-3440, R33232-027-4600, and R33232-221-3170

Acres or Square Feet of Property: 197 acres

Percentage of Property Affected by Project: Approx. 100 acres

Summary of Proposed Project Costs and Budget: The Amount Requested is **\$37,886** for two years of noxious weed control work. The amount requested would cover noxious weed control work in 2016 (\$19,549) and 2017 (\$18,337).

Attachments to Application:

Figure 1. Map showing location of Iverson Preserve

Attachment B – **Estimated** Project Budget

Attachment C – Budget Detail

Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management: Conservation Futures Funding Historical Timeline

Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020

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Project Description:

Iverson Preserve was purchased with Conservation Futures Funding in 1999. The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (Northwest Ecological Services, 2011) recognizes noxious weeds as one of the ecological challenges at Iverson Preserve. Although there have been several independent efforts to control the spread of noxious weeds in the preserve since its purchase, there was no long term noxious weed management plan to effectively guide the process. With previous Conservation Futures Funds (CFF), a long term noxious weed management plan for Iverson Preserve was completed in 2014. The "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020" is attached for your reference. Also attached to this grant application is an historical timeline of the previous CFF M&O grant applications and awards for noxious weed control work at Iverson Preserve.

Fifteen species of listed noxious weeds were documented at Iverson Preserve during the preparation of the noxious weed management plan. Four of these species (poison hemlock, common fennel, Canada thistle, and bull thistle) are regulated noxious weeds in Island County, meaning that control is legally required by the landowner. A detailed implementation schedule for noxious weed control through 2020 is presented in the management plan. The major goals are:

- Eliminate over 95% of the Scotch Broom (the most prolific noxious weed at the site) in the Preserve.
- Reduce the levels of Canadian Thistle, Bull Thistle, and Poison Hemlock by at least 95% through treatment efforts.
- Eliminate common teasel, common fennel, herb-Robert, English Ivy, English Holly, and oxeye daisy completely in the Preserve.
- Control the spread of Himalayan blackberry, common St. Johnswort, wild carrot, and reed canary grass into any new areas and reduce existing infestations using mechanical, chemical, and cultural control methods.
- Re-vegetate areas cleared of noxious weed with native species as necessary.
- Conduct annual monitoring to assess infestations and success of previous control efforts.
- Conduct early detection and rapid response (EDRR) and eradicate any new infestations of noxious weeds discovered in the Preserve

Significant progress has been made on the initial control of scotch broom, poison hemlock, and other noxious weeds; however, controlling noxious weeds requires multiple years of effort using a combination of control methods. This is only possible when there is funding to provide for the necessary resources over the long term. It is hoped that an additional two years of CFF Maintenance and Operations (M&O) funding for noxious weed control work will be granted so that the noxious weed control work that has already been completed will not have been done in vain and that Iverson Preserve can soon stand as an example of an Island County Park where noxious weeds no longer threaten the ecological diversity and enjoyment and health of its visitors.

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Maintenance and Operation Project Evaluation Criteria

Criteria A. Ecological integrity

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project reduces or eliminates a serious threat to ecological integrity, a developing ecological threat or invasive species threat.

The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (Northwest Ecological Services, 2011) recognizes noxious weeds as one of the ecological threats at Iverson Preserve. Noxious weeds are known to displace native plants, reduce biodiversity, affect threatened and endangered species, alter ecological processes, decrease wildlife habitat, increase erosion and sedimentation and negatively impact salmon habitat. Iverson Preserve has been identified as one of 68 hot spots for birding by Washington Audubon and is found on the Great Washington State Birding Trail Map. Already, a significant portion of the Preserve has been taken over by non-native Scotch broom, reducing the diversity of foraging and nesting habitat for birds.

Other noxious weed species, such as Canada thistle, bull thistle, and poison hemlock have not been adequately controlled since the property was acquired. The accidental introduction of weed seed contaminated soil into the Preserve has resulted in the spread of poison hemlock into areas of the Preserve where it was not present initially. This particular weed is a human health hazard as well as a threat to the managed agricultural area.

In addition, the 2013 noxious weed survey that was conducted while preparing the noxious weed management plan documented species that had not been previously reported as being present in Iverson Preserve. Some of these species, such as English Ivy, common fennel, common teasel, oxeye daisy, herb-Robert, and English holly spread quickly if not controlled and can out-compete native species. It is important to begin control work before these weeds, which are still in low numbers, have a chance to spread. An adequately funded long term noxious weed plan will also support monitoring and ensure early detection and rapid response so any new infestations discovered can be controlled immediately before they spread.

Appendix C of the attached "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020" presents maps showing the current distribution of noxious weeds, a spreadsheet that gives abundance estimates, and provides management and treatment recommendations. The Plan also presents a detailed implementation schedule for recommended control work through 2020.

Criteria B. Hazard or Liability

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project removes or eliminates a significant hazard or liability.

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All parts of poison hemlock are extremely toxic to humans and livestock. Control in excess of 95% of this noxious weed will significantly reduce the potential impact of accidental poisoning or negative reaction to contact with the plant.

Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10) requires landowners, including city, county, and state land agencies, to control or eradicate certain noxious weeds that occur on their property. Four noxious weed species found at Iverson Preserve (poison hemlock, common fennel, Canada thistle, and bull thistle) are regulated noxious weeds in Island County, meaning that control by the landowner is legally mandated. Since private citizens are equally responsible for controlling listed noxious weeds on their properties, the county could be liable and legally challenged for not obeying the same state laws. The noxious weed control work proposed for Iverson Preserve will insure compliance with noxious weed laws.

Criteria C. Special status

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project protects, restores, or enhances a species or plant community with special status

The open, protected habitats within Iverson Preserve are becoming increasingly important to fish and wildlife populations as development expands on Camano Island and within the Stillaguamish Basin. The Iverson Preserve Site Management Plan (2011) presents the following table that summarizes species and habitats potentially present on or within the near vicinity of Iverson Preserve that are protected by the Island County Critical Areas Ordinance, listed by Washington State as a Species of Concern (i.e. Endangered, Threatened, Sensitive, or Candidate) or as Priority Habitats, and/or are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Table 2: Fish and Wildlife Species and Habitats

Potentially On-Site	Island County Protection	State Protection	Federal Protection
Waterfowl concentrations		x	
Purple martin		x	
Marbled murrelet	x	x	x
Great blue heron	x	x	
Common loon	x	x	
Osprey	x		
Pileated woodpecker	x	x	
Trumpeter swan	x	x	
Salmonids	x	x	x
Eelgrass beds	x		
Potentially Off-Site, near vicinity			
Surf smelt	x	x	
Dungeness crab		x	
Harbor seal		x	x
Bald eagle	x	x	x
Gray whale	x	x	x

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The *Spartina* control work, funded by WSDA, is very important to maintaining the mudflat habitat that is so important to juvenile salmon and many species of shorebirds and waterfowl. The control of *Spartina*, a designated Class A noxious weed in Washington State, has been successful due to the long term commitment of funds and resources.

Iverson Preserve is also an important area to upland birds and has been selected by Audubon Washington as one of 68 sites to be included on the Great Washington State Birding Trail Map. Many resident bird species nest within the Preserve and the diversity of habitats attract many migratory species as well. Noxious weeds are a threat to the diversity of habitats and native plants that provide an abundance of nesting and foraging options to birds and other wildlife. As an example, in a large portion of the Preserve Scotch broom is now the dominant shrub and habitat diversity is reduced. If long term funding is granted, noxious weeds can be controlled in the upland area of Iverson and be a success story similar to the *Spartina* control that has occurred offshore.

Criteria D. Habitat values not previously covered

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project provides habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement in ways not covered in Criteria A-C.

An important component to a successful noxious weed control program is restoring areas where the noxious weeds have been removed. The ICNWPC contracted with Noah Booker from Shelterbelt Inc. to provide restoration alternatives for the Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Control Management Plan. The Scope of Work identified four deliverables: 1. A written document to be included in the Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan that would provide information about restoration alternatives for areas in the Preserve where noxious weeds were removed during 2013 and are planned for removal in the future; 2. Aerial photos showing locations of the restoration areas, with restoration areas delineated by polygons; 3. Specific revegetation/restoration guidelines for a site at the north end of weed management areas that had noxious weed infested fill dirt; and 4. Maintenance recommendations to ensure survival and success of revegetation/restoration efforts. His report "Noxious Weed Management Plan: Restoration Alternatives" is included as Appendix D in the attached "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020."

The restoration work in the area that was previously heavily infested with poison hemlock has already begun. Most of the poison hemlock was either killed by spraying with herbicide or manually dug during the spring of 2015. The area will be heavily mulched with >6" of biofuel or other weed free mulch and initial plantings of native shrubs and trees will begin in the fall of 2015 prior to the rainy season. In addition, replanting with native plants will occur in other areas where scotch broom and other noxious weeds are removed, resulting in bare areas larger than 10'x 10'.

Criteria E. Public Access

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project increase or enhances public access to the property

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The trails at Iverson Preserve are in jeopardy of being overtaken by noxious weeds in some areas and a significant portion of time is spent by the Park steward cutting back noxious weeds such as Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, and Canada and bull thistles to protect the integrity of the existing trail system and also to prevent harm to trail users. The management recommendations presented in the attached "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020" provide for more permanent removal of the noxious weeds that are impacting the trail systems and will reduce the need for continual cut back.

The removal of poison hemlock along the access stairs to the beach and along some of the other narrower trails will ensure that visitors will not come in contact with the plant which can result in skin and respiratory irritation.

Criteria F. Management Plan

Evaluation Element: 1. Project includes a proposal to develop a site-specific management plan if one does not already exist. OR 2. The property has an existing site-specific management plan and the degree the project is supported by this management plan.

A site specific management plan was prepared for Iverson Preserve in 2011 by Northwest Ecological Services. The plan recognizes noxious weed as one of the ecological challenges at Iverson Preserve. In response to this concern the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board submitted a grant proposal in 2012 for CFF M&O funds to conduct long term noxious weed control at Iverson Preserve. After consideration by both the Conservation Futures Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) and the Conservation Futures Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB), it was recommended that one year of funding, totaling \$14,145 be granted. Part of this funding was to be used for the preparation of a long term noxious weed control management plan. The Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020 was completed in 2014 and is submitted as an attachment to this grant proposal.

Criteria G. Supported by Community Plans

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project is supported by one or more federal, state, regional, or local plans

Iverson Preserve is an Island County Park. The Parks Plan which is in the Island County Comprehensive Plan supports noxious weed management. This project will reduce the time that the Camano Island Parks Maintenance person has to spend controlling weeds at this site. In addition, The Camano Island Roads Department has historically mowed along some of the access roads and along the dike within Iverson Preserve to help control noxious weeds and other vegetation from encroaching on these public access areas. This project will reduce the need for the Public Works Department to provide service for this area.

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The majority of the noxious weed control work at Iverson has been the *Spartina* control effort funded through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) since 1996. In 1996 there were approximately 20 solid acres of *Spartina* in the mudflats off Iverson. In 2013, only 0.105 acres were found and treated with herbicide and an additional 13 square feet of plant material were dug up and removed. Island County's current contract with WSDA for *Spartina* control extends through June 30, 2015. The goal is to have all of the *Spartina* eradicated by this time. This noxious weed control effort will complement the attached "Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020".

Friends of Camano Island Parks (FOCIP) has been actively involved at Iverson Preserve since its inception in 2000. Currently FOCIP has one dedicated site steward who is a local resident and is on site regularly, focusing on trail maintenance. FOCIP also has irregularly scheduled work parties for trail maintenance and also weed control, especially mechanical control of Scotch broom. FOCIP supports long term funding for noxious weed control at Iverson Preserve and several FOCIP members have written letters of support for previous CFF grant applications for these funds.

Criteria H. Existing Infrastructure

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project protects existing infrastructure vital to the property within the context of the CFF Program

As mentioned previously, many of the trails, wooden boardwalks, stair cases and signage are being impacted by noxious weeds that are encroaching onto these areas, reducing their effectiveness and long-term viability, as well as being a possible liability issue.

Criteria I. Develops infrastructure

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project provides new infrastructure vital to the property within the context of the CFF Program

N/A

Criteria J. Long Term Viability

Evaluation Element: Degree to which, in the long term, the result of the project can be reasonably managed and will remain viable.

The control of noxious weeds is never completed and there will always be a need to monitor and conduct some level of noxious weed control work at Iverson Preserve. However, in the original I budget that accompanied the long term noxious weed management proposed through 2020, the majority of the work was expected to be completed in the first 3 years. Of the \$59,507 that was requested in 2014 for CFF M&O funds through 2020, 70% was requested for the first 3 years of work. After this initial control work, it was expected that the noxious weed control could be reasonably managed in 2 days per month during fewer months per year at a cost of approximately \$6,000/year. If funding could be obtained through 2020, it is expected that the noxious weed control work at Iverson could be accomplished by

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the Island County Noxious Weed Program Coordinator as part of their regular Island County noxious weed responsibilities using only current expense funding with no additional CFF M&O funding needed. However this level of management would rely on continued support from FOCIP volunteers, the Camano Island Parks Maintenance staff, and the Camano Island Road Shop crew.

Criteria K. Other Resources

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the project utilizes matching funds or additional resources not from the CFF Program

The current ICNWP Coordinator possesses a WSDA pesticide applicator's license (No. 84304) with aquatic and right-of-way endorsements. The ICNWP Coordinator is responsible for keeping the license current by earning the required number of recertification credits each year. The ICNWP Coordinator also has the necessary National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to be able to use appropriate herbicides in aquatic areas. The ICNWP Coordinator is knowledgeable about plants, their life cycles, ecosystem function, and integrated pest management techniques. In addition the ICNWP Coordinator has the physical dexterity to implement mechanical control strategies and knows how to use the appropriate tools. The ICNWP owns many of the tools that would be needed for the control work including weed wrenches, shovels, back pack and hand held sprayers. In addition, as part of a cooperative working agreement with WSU Extension in Island County, the ICNWP Coordinator has access to GPS units, computers and software needed for continued monitoring and mapping of noxious weed infestation areas. The Island County Noxious Weed Program (ICNWP) Coordinator has an Island County issued vehicle for use, as well as a laptop computer that was purchased with general weed program M&O funds.

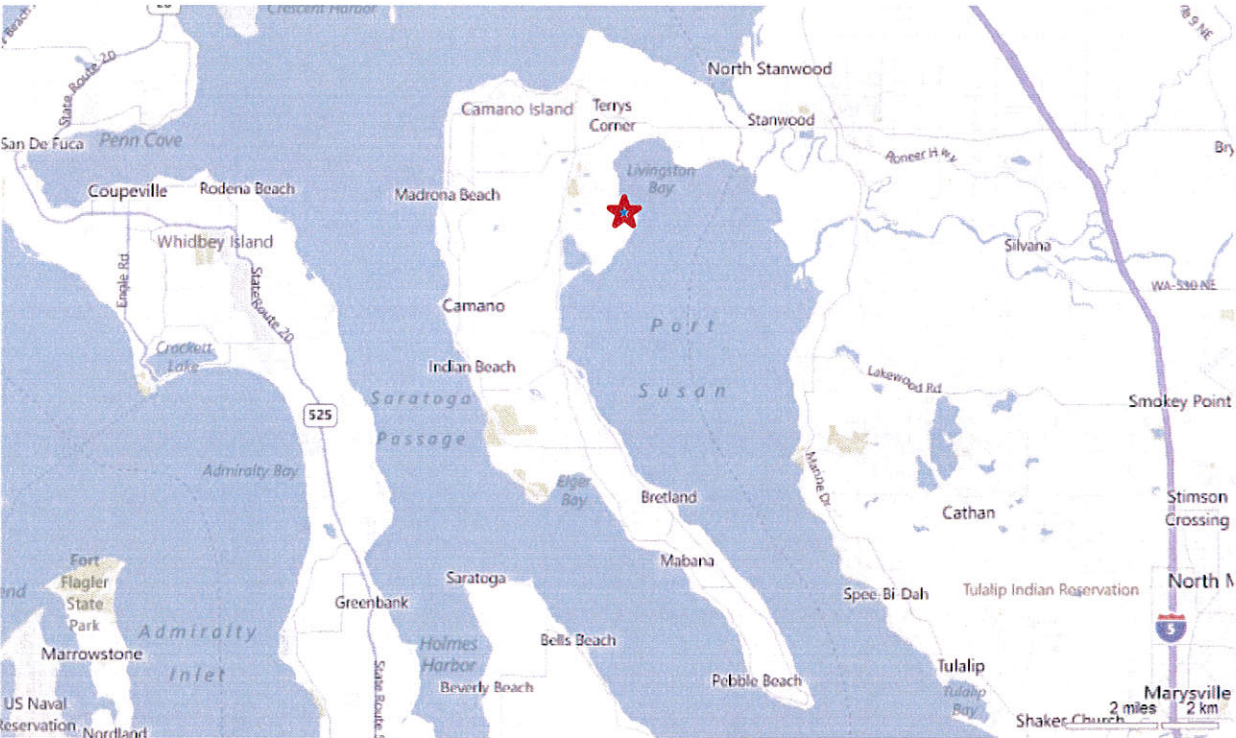
In 2013-2014, members of FOCIP donated 212.5 volunteer hours to Scotch broom control at Iverson Preserve. Many additional volunteer hours have been donated by the Iverson Preserve Adopt-A-Park steward who also helps with noxious weed control. This level of volunteer participation is expected to continue into the future. So far FOCIP has donated an additional 31.5 hours of volunteer Scotch broom removal in 2015.

Criteria L. Public Ownership

Evaluation Element: Degree to which the property is owned by the public. Fee simple public ownership = 5, Fee simple public ownership with someone else owning CE = 4, Public CE only = 3, Public trail only = 2, Public deed of right only = 1

Iverson Preserve is a fee simple public ownership property

Figure 1. Map showing location of Iverson Preserve



ATTACHMENT B
ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET
 ISLAND COUNTY CONSERVATION FUTURES FUND
 PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME = Iverson Preserve YEAR 2015
Noxious Weed Management

	Category	CFF	Other Funding Sources	Total Funding
Planning	Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Maintenance and Operations	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 28,800.00		\$ 28,800.00
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ 1,050.00		\$ 1,050.00
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ 1,512.00		\$ 1,512.00
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Maintenance / Operations	\$ 31,362.00		\$ 31,362.00
Management & Administration	Salaries and Benefits	\$ 5,524.00		\$ 5,524.00
	Consultants/Sub-Contracting	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Goods and Services*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Travel & Per Diem	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other	\$ 700.00		\$ 700.00
	Total Management & Admin	\$ 6,224.00		\$ 6,224.00
Equipment	Technology Capital Items*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Technology Supplies*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Equipment*	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
	Other	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Equipment	\$ 300.00		\$ 300.00
Property Acquisition (does not include appraisal costs, survey, engineering or other technical services)	Conservation Easements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Other Acquisition Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Acquisition Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Budget	\$ 37,886.00	\$ -	\$ 37,886.00

* For all line items listed with "**", please provided an attached detailed list of items and costs

IVERSON PRESERVE NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT
Buget Attachment C

Budget Item:	Work Year 2016 March 2016-Nov.2016 1 day/week	Work Year 2017 March 2017-Nov. 2017 1 day/week	
ICNWPC Salary for Noxious Weed Control Work *			
(No. of Hrs.x\$40/Hr.)			
Scotch Broom	\$4,300	\$4,300	
Poison Hemlock	\$1,920	\$1,920	
Thistles	\$1,020	\$1,020	
Himalayan Blackberry	\$1,020	\$1,020	
Other Listed Noxious Weeds	\$1,020	\$1,020	
ST=	\$9,280	\$9,280	
Restoration Costs			
ICNWPC Salary	\$800	\$800	
Fencing			
Mulch			
Native Plants	\$1,050		
Other Equipment & Materials**			
Tools	\$100	\$100	
Herbicides	\$100		
Travel Costs			
ICNWPC Salary (based on 3 hrs travel time/visit	\$4,320	\$4,320	
Fuel (based on 120 miles/trip; 20 mi/gal; \$3.50/gal.)	\$756	\$756	
Interfund Insurance	\$350	\$350	
ST=	\$16,756	\$15,606	
Administration Overhead	\$2,793	\$2,731	
Total	\$19,549	\$18,337	Total For 2 Years = \$37,886

* It is anticipated that all work will be done by the ICNW Program Coordinator with the help of volunteers. If contractors were hired the expense would not be additional, but would be substituted for budgeted ICNW Program Coordinator salary totals. Volunteer hours contributed in 2013-2014 equaled 212.5 and it is anticipated that these hours would be similar for 2016-2017

** Equipment Costs: \$100 per/year estimated for replacement parts such as blades and string for brush and grass trimmer, fuel for brush cutter, and small hand saws; \$100 for 1 gal. of herbicide (Garlon 3A)

Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management: Conservation Futures Funding Historical Timeline

- In 2011 the Island County Noxious Weed Program (ICNWP) Coordinator was contracted by the Public Works Department to initiate the noxious weed control work at Iverson Preserve. The \$5,500 grant extended from April 1, 2011 until October 31, 2011. Thane Tupper, who served as the ICNWP Coordinator during this period, was responsible for the noxious weed control efforts completed under the contract obligations. Thane Tupper resigned from the ICNWP Coordinator position in November of 2011.
- In February 2012, Tim Lawrence, WSU Island County Director, and the Island County Noxious Weed Control Board submitted a grant proposal for Conservation Futures Program maintenance and operations funding to develop and implement a long term noxious weed management plan for Iverson Preserve. The funding request was for \$43,350 to be spent over eight years: \$7,200 per year for the first five years and \$7,350 for years six through eight.
- Janet Stein was hired on March 12, 2012 as the new ICNWP Coordinator and was asked to defend the grant proposal for the Conservation Futures Funding Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) on April 23, 2012 and the Conservation Futures Funding Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) on May 24, 2012.
- After consideration of the grant proposal by both the Conservation Futures Technical Advisory Committee (TAG) and the Conservation Futures Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB), it was recommended that one year of funding, totaling \$14,145 be granted. Part of this funding was to be used for the preparation of a long term noxious weed control management plan. Upon finalizing an updated noxious weed control management plan and analyzing the results of the efforts from the first year, the CAB encouraged the Noxious Weed Control board to return in 2013 with a longer term operation and maintenance program and funding request for Iverson Preserve.
- The funds were not officially granted until September 24, 2012 so field work was not initiated until 2013. The Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020 summarizes the work that was completed in 2013 and presents an implementation schedule for continued noxious weed control work through 2020.
- In October 2013 I submitted a request to General Services Administration for an extension from the December 31, 2013 grant deadline until June 30, 2014. This extension was requested in order to reserve some of the current grant funds for continued weed control during the critical spring growing season in 2014 recognizing that there might be a delay in obtaining new grant funds. This extension amendment was approved on October 31, 2013.
- February 2014: A New Project Application for Conservation Futures Maintenance and Operations Funding for Long Term Noxious Weed Management at Iverson Preserve was submitted. The application included the completed Iverson Preserve Noxious Weed Management Plan: 2013-2020. Janet Stein defended the grant proposal before the TAG on

March 31, 2014 and before the CAB on May 12, 2014. The recommendation of the TAG was to fund the project for the first two years and the recommendation of the CAB was to fund the project for the entire seven years of funding requested (\$59,507). The BOCC final ruling was to fund the project through the first year only. The reasoning was that multi-year funding went against current county code in regards to how CFF should be allocated and would take away from future BOCC boards the decision on how to use future year funding.

- The 2014 funding was not approved by the BOCC until Nov. 3, 2104. The Interdepartmental Agreement between Island County GSA and the Island County Noxious Weed Board established the term of the contract to be from 1/1/15 through 12/31/15. Noxious weed control work is currently being completed at Iverson Preserve under the terms of this contract.
- There was a gap in funding between July 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015 and no noxious weed control work was conducted at Iverson Preserve during this 6 month period.